



4310-MR-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

30 CFR Parts 550 and 553

[Docket ID: BOEM–2019–0079; MMAA104000]

RIN 1010–AE03

Oil and Gas and Sulfur Operations in the Outer Continental Shelf-Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustments

AGENCY: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Interior.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This final rule implements the 2019 adjustment of the level of the maximum daily civil monetary penalties contained in the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) regulations for violations of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA) and the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA), in accordance with the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015 and relevant Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidance. The 2019 adjustment multiplier of 1.02522 accounts for one year of inflation spanning the period from October 2017 through October 2018.

DATES: This rule is effective on [INSERT DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

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I. Background and Legal Authority

The OCSLA directs the Secretary of the Interior to adjust the OCSLA maximum daily civil penalty amount at least once every three years to reflect any increase in the Consumer Price Index to account for inflation (43 U.S.C. 1350(b)(1)).

The OPA does not include a maximum daily civil penalty inflation adjustment provision.

The Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015 (Sec. 701 of Public Law 114-74) (FCPIAA of 2015) requires Federal agencies to promulgate annual inflation adjustments for civil monetary penalties. Specifically, the FCPIAA of 2015 required

agencies to adjust the level of civil monetary penalties with an initial “catch-up” adjustment through an interim final rulemaking (IFR) in 2016, and required agencies to make subsequent annual adjustments for inflation, beginning in 2017. Agencies were required to publish the first annual inflation adjustments in the *Federal Register* by no later than January 15, 2017, and must publish recurring annual inflation adjustments by no later than January 15 of each subsequent year. The purpose of these adjustments is to maintain the deterrent effect of civil penalties and to further the policy goals of the underlying statutes. For this year’s annual inflation adjustment, BOEM is publishing this rule after the statutory January 15 deadline because of a lapse in government funding that began on December 22, 2018, and ended on January 25, 2019.

BOEM last adjusted the levels of civil monetary penalties in BOEM regulations through a final rule, RIN 1010-AD99 [83 FR 8930], which was published on March 2, 2018.

The OMB Memorandum M-19-04 (Implementation of Penalty Inflation Adjustments for 2019, Pursuant to the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015; https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/m_19_04.pdf), issued December 14, 2018, explains agency statutory responsibilities for: identifying applicable penalties and performing the annual adjustment; publishing revisions to regulations to implement the adjustment in the *Federal Register*; applying adjusted penalty levels; and performing agency oversight of inflation adjustments.

BOEM is promulgating this 2019 inflation adjustment for the OCSLA and OPA maximum daily civil penalties as a final rule pursuant to the provisions of the FCPIAA of 2015 and OMB guidance. A proposed rule is not required because the FCPIAA of 2015 expressly exempted the annual inflation adjustments implemented pursuant to the FCPIAA of 2015 from the pre-promulgation notice and comment requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act, 5

U.S.C. 553 *et seq.* (the APA), allowing those adjustments to be published directly as final rules. Specifically, the FCPIAA of 2015 states that agencies shall adjust civil monetary penalties “notwithstanding Section 553 of the Administrative Procedure Act.” (FCPIAA of 2015 at section 4(b)(2)). This interpretation of the FCPIAA of 2015 is confirmed by OMB Memorandum M-19-04 at 4 (“This means that the public procedure the APA generally requires (*i.e.*, notice, an opportunity for comment, and a delay in effective date) is not required for agencies to issue regulations implementing the annual adjustment.”).

II. Calculation of 2019 Adjustments

Under the FCPIAA of 2015 and the guidance provided in OMB Memorandum M-19-04, BOEM has identified applicable civil monetary penalties and calculated the necessary inflation adjustments. The previous civil penalty inflation adjustments accounted for inflation through October 2017. The required annual civil penalty inflation adjustments promulgated through this rule account for inflation through October 2018.

Annual inflation adjustments are based on the percent change between the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the October preceding the date of the adjustment, and the prior year’s October CPI-U. Consistent with the guidance in OMB Memorandum M-19-04, BOEM divided the October 2018 CPI-U by the October 2017 CPI-U to calculate the multiplying factor. In this case, October 2018 CPI-U (252.885) / October 2017 CPI-U (246.663) = 1.02522. OMB Memorandum M-19-04 confirms that this is the proper multiplier. (*See* OMB Memorandum M-19-04 at 1 and n.4).

For 2019, OCSLA and the FCPIAA of 2015 require that BOEM adjust the OCSLA maximum daily civil penalty amount. To accomplish this, BOEM multiplied the existing OCSLA maximum daily civil penalty amount (\$43,576) by the multiplying factor ($\$43,576 \times$

1.02522 = \$44,674.99). The FCPIAA of 2015 requires that the resulting amount be rounded to the nearest \$1.00 at the end of the calculation process. Accordingly, the adjusted OCSLA maximum daily civil penalty is \$44,675.

For 2019, the FCPIAA of 2015 requires that BOEM adjust the OPA maximum daily civil penalty amount. To accomplish this, BOEM multiplied the current OPA maximum daily civil penalty amount (\$46,192) by the multiplying factor ($\$46,192 \times 1.02522 = \$47,356.96$). The FCPIAA of 2015 requires that the resulting amount be rounded to the nearest \$1.00 at the end of the calculation process. Accordingly, the adjusted OPA maximum daily civil penalty is \$47,357.

The adjusted penalty levels will take effect immediately upon publication of this rule. Pursuant to the FCPIAA of 2015, the increases in the OCSLA and OPA maximum daily civil penalty amounts apply to civil penalties assessed after the date the relevant increase takes effect, even if the associated violation(s) predates such increase. Consistent with the provisions of OCSLA, OPA, and the FCPIAA of 2015, this rule adjusts the following maximum civil monetary penalties per day per violation as follows:

CFR Citation	Description of the Penalty	Current Maximum Penalty	Multiplier	Adjusted Maximum Penalty
30 CFR 550.1403	Failure to comply per day, per violation.	\$43,576	1.02522	\$44,675
30 CFR 553.51(a)	Failure to comply per day, per violation.	\$46,192	1.02522	\$47,357

III. Procedural Requirements

A. Regulatory Planning and Review (E.O. 12866, 13563, and 13771)

Executive Order (E.O.) 12866 provides that the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) in the OMB will review all significant rules. OIRA has determined that this rule is not significant. (*See* OMB Memorandum M-19-04 at 3).

E.O. 13563 reaffirms the principles of E.O. 12866 while calling for improvements in the Nation's regulatory system to reduce uncertainty and to promote predictability and the use of the best, most innovative, and least burdensome tools for achieving regulatory ends. E.O. 13563 directs agencies to consider regulatory approaches that reduce burdens and maintain flexibility and freedom of choice for the public where these approaches are relevant, feasible, and consistent with regulatory objectives. We have developed this rule in a manner consistent with these requirements, to the extent relevant and feasible given the limited discretion provided agencies in the FCPIAA of 2015.

E.O. 13771 of January 30, 2017, directs Federal agencies to reduce the regulatory burden on regulated entities and control regulatory costs. E.O. 13771, however, applies only to significant regulatory actions, as defined in Section 3(f) of E.O. 12866. OIRA has determined that agency regulations exclusively implementing the annual adjustment required by the FCPIAA of 2015 are not significant regulatory actions under E.O. 12866, provided they are consistent with OMB Memorandum M-19-04 (*See* OMB Memorandum M-19-04 at 3). Thus, E.O. 13771 does not apply to this rulemaking.

B. Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) requires an agency to prepare a regulatory flexibility analysis for rules unless the agency certifies that the rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. The RFA applies only to rules for which an agency is required to first publish a proposed rule. (*See* 5 U.S.C. 603(a) and 604(a)).

The FCPIAA of 2015 expressly exempts these annual inflation adjustments from the requirement to publish a proposed rule for notice and comment. (*See* FCPIAA of 2015 at section 4(b)(2); OMB Memorandum M-19-04 at 4). Thus, the RFA does not apply to this rulemaking.

C. Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act

This rule is not a major rule under 5 U.S.C. 804(2), the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act. This rule:

- (a) Will not have an annual effect on the economy of \$100 million or more;
- (b) Will not cause a major increase in costs or prices for consumers, individual industries, Federal, State, or local government agencies, or geographic regions; and
- (c) Will not have significant adverse effects on competition, employment, investment, productivity, innovation, or the ability of U.S.-based enterprises to compete with foreign-based enterprises.

D. Unfunded Mandates Reform Act

This rule does not impose an unfunded mandate on state, local, or tribal governments, or the private sector, of more than \$100 million per year. The rule does not have a significant or unique effect on state, local, or tribal governments or the private sector. Therefore, a statement containing the information required by the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (2 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) is not required.

E. Takings (E.O. 12630)

This rule does not effect a taking of private property or otherwise have takings implications under E.O. 12630. Therefore, a takings implication assessment is not required.

F. Federalism (E.O. 13132)

Under the criteria in section 1 of E.O. 13132, this rule does not have sufficient federalism implications to warrant the preparation of a federalism summary impact statement. To the extent that State and local governments have a role in outer Continental Shelf activities, this rule will not affect that role. Therefore, a federalism summary impact statement is not required.

G. Civil Justice Reform (E.O. 12988)

This rule complies with the requirements of E.O. 12988. Specifically, this rule:

- (a) Meets the criteria of section 3(a) requiring that all regulations be reviewed to eliminate errors and ambiguity and be written to minimize litigation; and
- (b) Meets the criteria of section 3(b)(2) requiring that all regulations be written in clear language and contain clear legal standards.

H. Consultation with Indian Tribes (E.O. 13175 and Departmental Policy)

The Department of the Interior strives to strengthen its government-to-government relationship with Indian tribes through a commitment to consultation with Indian tribes and recognition of their right to self-governance and tribal sovereignty. We have evaluated this rule under the Department of the Interior's consultation policy, under Departmental Manual Part 512, Chapters 4 and 5, and under the criteria in E.O. 13175. We have determined that it has no substantial direct effects on Federally-recognized Indian tribes or Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) Corporations, and that consultation under the Department of the Interior's tribal and ANCSA consultation policies is not required.

I. Paperwork Reduction Act

This rule does not contain information collection requirements, and a submission to the OMB under the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) is not required.

J. National Environmental Policy Act

This rule does not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. A detailed statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required because, as a regulation of an administrative nature, this rule is covered by a categorical exclusion (*see* 43 CFR 46.210(i)). BOEM also determined that the rule does not implicate any of the extraordinary circumstances listed in 43 CFR 46.215 that would require further analysis under NEPA. Therefore, a detailed statement under NEPA is not required.

K. Effects on the Energy Supply (E.O. 13211)

This rule is not a significant energy action under the definition in E.O. 13211. Therefore, a Statement of Energy Effects is not required.

List of Subjects

30 CFR Part 550

Administrative practice and procedure, Continental shelf, Environmental impact statements, Environmental protection, Federal lands, Government contracts, Investigations, Mineral resources, Oil and gas exploration, Outer continental shelf, Penalties, Pipelines, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Rights-of-way, Sulfur.

30 CFR Part 553

Administrative practice and procedure, Continental shelf, Financial responsibility, Liability, Limit of liability, Oil and gas exploration, Oil pollution, Outer continental shelf, Penalties, Pipelines, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Rights-of-way, Surety bonds, Treasury securities.

Dated: February 15, 2019.

Joseph R. Balash,
Assistant Secretary,
Land and Minerals Management.

For the reasons stated in the preamble, the BOEM amends title 30, chapter V, subchapter B, parts 550 and 553 of the Code of Federal Regulations as follows:

**PART 550—OIL AND GAS AND SULFUR OPERATIONS IN THE OUTER
CONTINENTAL SHELF**

1. The authority citation for part 550 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 30 U.S.C. 1751; 31 U.S.C. 9701; 43 U.S.C. 1334.

2. Revise § 550.1403 to read as follows:

§ 550.1403 What is the maximum civil penalty?

The maximum civil penalty is \$44,675 per day per violation.

**PART 553—OIL SPILL FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR OFFSHORE
FACILITIES**

3. The authority citation for part 553 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 33 U.S.C. 2704, 2716; E.O. 12777, as amended.

4. In § 553.51, revise paragraph (a) to read as follows:

§ 553.51 What are the penalties for not complying with this part?

(a) If you fail to comply with the financial responsibility requirements of OPA at 33 U.S.C. 2716 or with the requirements of this part, then you may be liable for a civil penalty of up to \$47,357 per COF per day of violation (that is, each day a COF is operated without acceptable evidence of OSFR).

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